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REMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly considered the Examiner's remarks and the application has been amended in light thereof. Claims 24-27, 33, 39 and 41-48 are presented in the application for further examination. Claims 24, 33, 39 and 41-44 have been amended by this Amendment C. Claims 45-48 have been added by this Amendment C. Reconsideration of the application claims as amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The following remarks will follow the sequence of the Office action.

Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 33 has been amended and, among other things, recites:

producing by the production machine the custom absorbent paper product ordered by the consumer embodying the first selected graphic design and having the packaging embodying the second selected graphic design....

Thus, claim 33 recites a practical application which is statutory subject matter so that the rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 24-27, 39, 41 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Direct Marketing in view of Froseth et al.

Regarding claim 24, 41 and 44, the Examiner argues that Direct Marketing discloses and teaches a method and system in which a manufacturer produces a custom facial tissue product for a consumer. However, claim 24 has been amended to recite "A method in which a manufacturer produces a plurality of custom tissues within a custom package for a consumer, the method comprising the manufacturer: receiving..., providing..., and producing...."

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Similarly, claim 41 has been amended to recite "A method in which a supplier provides to a consumer an absorbent paper product and a packaging therefor to order, the method comprising the supplier: collecting..., collecting..., receiving..., producing..., and providing...."

Similarly, claim 44 has been amended to recite "A system for use with a communications network, said system being used by a supplier for producing a custom absorbent paper product and a packaging therefor desired by a consumer, said system comprising: a network interface, a production machine and a computer server.

In summary, amended claims 24, 41 and 44 recite that the product has features selected by the consumer via a network and the packaging therefor has graphical features selected by the consumer via a network. As none of the art discloses or teaches this combination, claims 24, 41 and 44 are patentable.

Applicants note that the Examiner argues on page 9 of the Office action (with regard to claim 33) that Froseth et al. disclose and teach customized packaging at PARA 0272, 0273 and Figures 1, 16 and 23A-C. Although Froseth et al. suggest that customized packaging can be offered, Froseth et al. fail to recognize that the graphics of the packaging may be selected by the consumer. This aspect of the invention is recited in claims 24, as follows:

receiving information from the consumer via a communications network, said information ... relating to a second graphical option of a second plurality of graphical options of a package feature of the package....

This aspect of the invention is recited in claims 41, as follows:

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collecting information from the consumer through the communications network, the information relating to a desired package feature of the packaging for the absorbent paper product wherein the desired package feature includes a plurality of second graphical options, wherein the information collected from the consumer identifies one of the plurality of second graphical options....

This aspect of the invention is recited in claims 44, as follows:

a network interface accessible to the consumer for receiving information from the consumer over the communications network, said information relating to ... a second graphical option of a second plurality of second graphical options of a package feature of the packaging for the absorbent paper product....

Furthermore, claim 39 depends from claim 24 and new claims 45 and 48 depend from claim 41 and 44, respectively. These claims recite that both the product feature and the package feature are graphic design. Froseth et al. do not teach this aspect so that claims 39, 45 and 48 are also allowable.

Since none of the applied art teaches such graphical options, the rejection of claims 24, 41 and 44 should be withdrawn.

Claims 33 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Direct Marketing and Froseth et al. and further in view of Schilling. Claim 33 has been amended similarly to claims 24, 41 and 44 as follows:

A method in which a supplier customizes an absorbent paper product and customizes a packaging for the absorbent paper product for a consumer, the method comprising the supplier: receiving from the consumer via a communications network a first identification of a first selected one of the first

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plurality of graphic designs of the absorbent paper product, a second identification of a second selected one of the second plurality of graphic designs of the packaging and a purchase order for a custom absorbent paper product embodying the first selected graphic design and having packaging embodying the second selected graphic design....

Claim 42 has been amended similarly to claims 24, 41 and 44 as follows:

A system for use with a communications network, said system being used by a supplier for producing a custom absorbent paper product and a packaging therefor desired by a consumer, said system comprising:

a network interface accessible to the consumer for receiving information from the consumer over the communications network, said information relating to a first option of a first plurality of first options of a product feature of the absorbent paper product desired by the consumer and a second graphical option of a second plurality of second graphical options of a package feature of the packaging for the absorbent paper product....

Thus, for the reasons noted above with regard to claims 24, 41 and 44, claims 33 and 42 are also patentable.

Furthermore, new claim 46 depends from claim 42 and is also patentable for the same reasons as claims 45 and 48, noted above.

Claim 43 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Direct Marketing and Froseth et al. and further in view of Wilmott. Claim 43 has been amended similarly to claims 24, 41 and 44 as follows:

A system for use with a communications network, said system being used by a supplier for producing a custom absorbent

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paper product and a packaging therefor desired by a consumer, said system comprising:
a network interface accessible to the consumer for receiving information from the consumer over the communications network, said information relating to a first option of a first plurality of first options of a product feature of the absorbent paper product desired by the consumer and a second graphical option of a second plurality of second graphical options of a package feature of the packaging for the absorbent paper product...

Thus, for the reasons noted above with regard to claims 24, 41 and 44, claim 43 is also patentable.

Furthermore, new claim 47 depends from claim 43 and is also patentable for the same reasons as claims 45, 46 and 48, noted above.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 24-27, 33, 39 and 41-48 are patentable over the prior art so that the rejection may be withdrawn. The Examiner has failed to apply any references which would suggest the application of the teachings of Froseth et al., Schilling and Wilmott to the Direct Marketing reference in the context of both product options and graphical packaging options. In addition, none of the applied references teach selecting graphic features of both the product and packaging, as recited by some of the dependent claims. In addition, the Examiner has failed to apply any references which illustrate a custom absorbent paper product production machine. Thus, the applied references cannot be combined and, in any case, the combination of applied references does not read on or otherwise make the claims obvious.

It is felt that a full and complete response has been made to the Office action and, as such, places the application in condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels, for any reason, that a personal interview will expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with this Amendment C. If, however, the Commissioner determines that there are fees due regarding this Amendment C, he is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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